

Connections

A Publication for Employees of the Missouri Department of Transportation

December 4, 2014

Team Talk

by Roberta Broeker

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Northeast

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Hello Team MoDOT! I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving with loved ones, whether that be family or friends or both, and a safe and productive Friday after Thanksgiving day off. This time of year is great because we so often do make the effort to spend time with family and friends. Maintaining that connection is important, and I hope you got to experience some of that. While the weather is colder and the days seem shorter, there is an air of anticipation and celebration as everyone gears up for their holiday traditions. In my family, that means I help my dad put up the Christmas lights on the day after Thanksgiving. To me this illustrates that when it comes to family traditions, big or little, you go with what you got.



I really enjoy hearing from other people about what it is that makes their celebrations special. Depending on your culture and background, traditions are incredibly rich and varied. Learning what others hold dear is so very interesting to me. Respecting and celebrating other beliefs, traditions and opinions is one of the many things that make us a great nation, a great state and a great department.

For many this time preparing for holiday traditions feels a little different this year. The festive spirit is shadowed by the recent events in Ferguson. People have rallied in either support or dissent, and sometimes violently.

It is apparent that opinions on this issue are deeply felt. They should be. At its heart this is an issue of social justice. With the widespread use of social media, every person has an outlet to express their opinions. While we don't all need to share the same opinion, we do need to be respectful of each other's viewpoints. It is important that we use respect when expressing or

listening to opinions. The old saying of not judging till you walk a mile in someone else's shoes is applicable. I am mindful that I grew up in a very safe, very middle class, very white small town. I came from a two parent home where dad had a factory job and always made enough to put food on the table, clothes on our backs and a roof over our heads. Mom was there when I got home from school. I had plenty of role models to show me the way. Not everyone has those advantages; advantages I didn't earn but was simply born with. Realizing that makes me see I need to listen to others, and try to understand where they're coming from; whatever the issue may be.

Stay safe and remember to be respectful.

Etiquette for the Holiday Season

by Linda Wilson-Horn

Between Thanksgiving and New Year's, there are a number of holidays being observed by various religious and ethnic groups. What is the best way to acknowledge and celebrate these holidays? What can you say and do that is constitutional, culturally sensitive, and respectful of the diversity around us?

Everybody in your office may not celebrate the same holiday you do, or in the same way. Some people don't celebrate the holidays at all. With this diversity it is important to treat others the way we would like to be treated and be respectful of all holiday observances.

Here are some tips to create an inclusive holiday environment:

1. Don't be afraid to ask people what holidays they celebrate and what they do during this time of year.
2. Take note of the dates of other religious or holiday celebrations. Learn about these celebrations and share your learning with others. Use it as a chance to spark a conversation.
3. Call it a Christmas tree. There's nothing wrong with calling it what it is: a Christmas tree. However, be mindful of how others celebrate and don't force others to celebrate in a way in which is not comfortable. Feel free to



celebrate your holiday, while being respectful of these differences and making others feel welcome.

- 4. Use specific holiday greetings when you know the person’s religious affiliation. It’s quite appropriate for a Jewish employee wishing a "Merry Christmas" and a Christian employee returning it with a "Happy Hanukkah." If talking to a person whose religious affiliation you do not know, it is good manners and common courtesy to wish people “happy holidays” or “season’s greetings.”
- 5. It is ok to have a Christmas party if everyone in your work group agrees that is acceptable to them. Otherwise, you should have a more general holiday party with general holiday decorations.

According to “Appreciating Diversity in the Holidays”, by Simma Lieberman, here are a few things employers can do to make workplaces more inclusive during the holidays.

- 1. Consider having a New Year’s party instead of a holiday party. This type of party can get everyone on board with the company’s mission and vision for the New Year.
- 2. Post holiday greetings for many religious holidays. Be respectful of these special dates and plan events and meetings around various holidays.
- 3. Be flexible with the needs of different employees about religious or holiday celebrations.
- 4. Encourage employees to share their celebrations through stories, decorations, and foods that they can bring to their workplace.

(Sources: *Creating a Culture of Respect* by Ilene Wasserman; *Appreciating diversity during the Holidays* by Simma Lieberman).

For more information read this online article at DiversityInc - [Six Simple Steps to Avoid the December Dilemma](#).

CONNECT WITH YOUR EMPLOYEE ADVISORY COUNCIL TODAY

?

EAC

EMPLOYEE MEETING SCHEDULING ADVISORY COMMUNICATION ADVISORY SERVICE REQUEST COUNCIL

Be careful with your words.
Once they are said, they
can only be forgiven
not forgotten.

It is the mission of the EAC to foster and enhance a positive work environment for all MoDOT employees.

Winter Operations by the Numbers

As always, MoDOT staff and equipment are ready for whatever Mother Nature throws at us this winter. It’s pretty amazing what it takes to keep our customers safe and moving on our roadways.

Check out these average statistics for winter operations over the past five years:

- Annual snow removal cost - \$46 million tons of salt used per winter – 180,000 tons
- Number of workers for winter operations – 3,500
- Number of snowplows – 1,500
- Gallons of salt brine used – 3 million gallons
- Gallons of beet juice used – 350,000 gallons
- Number of hours worked fighting winter weather – 540,000 hours
- Number of miles driven on plow trucks – 5.5 million miles



Substance-Impaired Driving Can Ruin the Holidays

Law Enforcement Says, "Going Out Tonight? So Are We."

by Kelly Jackson

As motorists plan their festive holiday gatherings between now and the New Year, the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety wants to remind them that substance-impaired driving can be a lethal combination. The consequences are fines, jail time or even death.

There were 41 people killed and 242 seriously injured in Missouri traffic crashes between Dec. 13, 2013 and Jan. 1, 2014. Four of the fatalities and 32 of the serious injuries involved a substance-impaired driver.

To help make Missouri's roadways safer, statewide law enforcement is on the lookout for impaired drivers, with targeted enforcement efforts Dec. 12, 2014 to Jan. 1, 2015.

Statewide all law enforcement agencies will be out in full force, and if you choose to drive impaired, you will be arrested.

There are no excuses to drive impaired. Please consider the following tips:

- Don't risk it - if you plan to drive, don't consume alcohol or drugs.
- Choose a designated driver before partying. A designated driver is someone who consumes NO alcohol or drugs at all.
- Take mass transit, a taxicab or ask a friend to drive you home.
- Report impaired drivers to law enforcement.
- Always wear your safety belt - it's your best defense against an impaired driver in a traffic crash.

To learn more, visit savemolives.com, or find us on social media at Save MO Lives.



Focus on the Road Winner Announced 2014 Ford Focus Given to Jefferson City Finalist

by Kelly Jackson

Heather Stephens of Jefferson City pledged to focus on the road and not drive distracted. On Nov. 20, as a result of that pledge, she won a new car just in time for the holidays.



A very excited Heather Stephens is awarded a 2014 Ford Focus for pledging to focus on the road and not drive distracted.

being focused on the road."

For more information about staying focused on the road, visit savemolives.com, or find us on social media at Save MO Lives.

A 2014 Ford Focus from Joe Machens Ford was awarded to Stephens at the Machens dealership in Jefferson City as part of an awareness campaign to keep drivers attentive behind the wheel. The Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety teamed up with Machens Ford and KRCG-TV to sponsor the "Focus on the Road" campaign.

KRCG visited eight high schools and five college campuses state wide, teaming up with ThinkFirst Missouri to give personal testimony on the dangers of driving distracted. Over 6,000 Missourians made the pledge on KRCG's website to stay focused on driving. Of the entries, 13 finalists were chosen and each was given a key to try in the new vehicle. The winner was announced during KRCG's live evening broadcast.

Distracted driving is any activity that could divert a person's attention away from the primary task of driving. A driver using a communication device was involved in nearly 2,000 (9 percent) of Missouri traffic crashes involving a distracted driver in 2013.

"No conversation or text is worth the risk of a crash," said Dr. Leanna Depue, executive chair of the Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety. "When you're behind the wheel, there is no more important activity than

Fatality Update



What's Happening



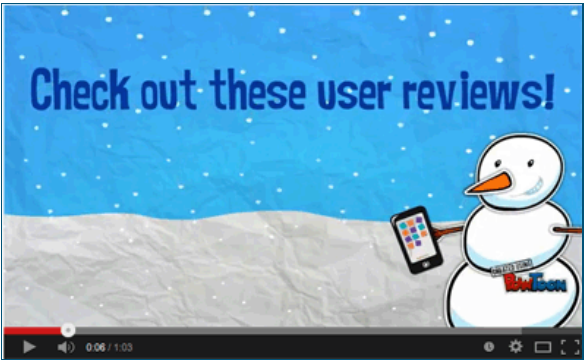
Performance Excellence Award Received

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials awarded a team of employees in St. Louis the 2014 Performance Excellence Award for the Raising Spirit of St. Louis Boulevard Bridge Project. See the St. Louis District's Connections page for the full article - [St. Louis](#).



EAC Minutes

Minutes from the Employee Advisory Council's October meeting have been posted on the EAC website at [October 2014 EAC Meeting Minutes](#) (works for active employees only). If you have any questions or comments, please contact the EAC at eac@modot.mo.gov.



Traveler Information Map

Have you downloaded MoDOT's Traveler Information Map on your phone? It is free on iTunes and Google Play. Get up to date info on weather related road conditions, flood closures and work zone locations all in the palm of your hand. You can also view the map online at: [Traveler Map](#). Check out these user reviews for the app in sthis short video: [Traveler Map Video](#).

2015 Holidays

If you are planning meetings or events for 2015, be sure to check out MoDOT's holiday list on SharePoint - [2015 Holidays](#).

January 2015			
Wk	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
1			
2	5	6	7
3	12	13	14



Chat With The Chief

Remember to check out Chief Engineer Ed Hassinger’s blog post. This week he talks about MoDOT innovation - Chat with the Chief.

District	# of people	Miles	Miles per person
Central District	36	7,527	209
Central Office	93	17,792	191
Kansas City	37	10,649	288
Northeast	18	4,415	245
Northwest	33	11,408	346
Southeast	56	10,049	179
Southwest	46	14,775	321
St. Louis	50	21,806	436
TOTAL COMBINED	369	98,421	267

100 Mile Challenge Update

As of Nov. 11, St Louis is in the lead with 21,806 miles, while Northwest is averaging about 346 miles per person. That’s over 14,000 miles logged since the previous month. The cutoff date to enter your miles is Dec. 31. You can go back and log miles from March 20 forward.

More information will be coming soon when the winning district is announced.

December Service Anniversaries

30 Years

Cullen C. Brewer - KC

25 Years

Jim Palmer Westhoff - KC
Lydia A. Elkin - SL
Stephen K. Mothersbaugh - SW
James D. Robinson - SE
Leslie N. Fennewald - CO
Stacy D. Mahaney - CO

20 Years

Gregory Lewis Stervinou - NW
Rodney A. Welch - NW

15 Years

Kenneth Lee New - NW
Jason T. Utz - NW
Kenneth Leroy Windsor - NW
Steven Edward Willis - NW
Jon R. Carson - NW
Chadwick A. Smith - CD
Virgil Thomas Reed - SL
Rex Allen Yearta - SW
Laurie June Hardie - SW
Christina Jean Dawson - SW
Kristina Lyn Marshall - SW
James T. Adams - SE
Timothy Patrick Green - SE

10 Years

Michael D. Hulett - NE
Jonathon Ryan Raines - KC
Kelly C. Yager - KC
Brenda A. Butler - KC
James C. Hake - CD
Lola Jean Reed - CD
Keith A. Chandler - SW
Keith B. McKinney - SE
Richard S. Patterson - CO

5 Years

Matthew R. Korman - NE
George E. Rosser - KC

Krista L. Burnett - NW
LeaAnn Otis - KC
Joseph E. Coffey - KC
Richard R. Knight - SW
Brenda K. St. John - SE
Terri Lynne Parker - CO
Jeffrey T. Payne - CO

Rhonda Montelle Thompson - CO
Marjorie Colette Doerhoff - CO

Luther Allen - SE
Tomikia L. Chalmers - CO
Jeremy L. Hodges - CO

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Editor: Tammy Wallace

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Central Office

Interview With an IS Technologist: A Charitable Art Project

by Patrick Wood

I have pieced together my fair share of model planes and race cars, but I have never built my own realistic model from scratch. That's exactly what Senior Information Systems Technologist Travis Bond did for the IS Charitable Campaign. After seeing pictures of the model snowplow my curiosity of its creation was peaked, so I reached out to Travis to learn more.



Senior Information Systems Technologist Travis Bond shows Chief Financial Officer Roberta Broeker his made from scratch snow plow model for the Charitable Campaign.

willing to make the vehicle for the Application Development area. The original intent of the fundraiser was to simply decorate one small cardboard box, but the realist artist in me kicked in and I started looking at MoDOT snowplow pictures online and drew up a realistic design.

The majority of the truck is made from cardboard. The tires are florist foam discs, paper clips in the mirrors, pieces of dowel rod in the lights on the cab and a couple pipe cleaners to represent hydraulic hoses. I completely covered the cardboard model with painters tape to paint it so the cardboard would not get wet and soggy. The load of salt in the back is crumpled up paper, which I also taped and painted then coated with glue and sprinkled with real sea salt.

How long did this model take to make?
I would say it took me 15-20 hours total. We had a little over a week to make them, so most of the main construction of it was done in the mornings while having coffee before work and some during evenings. Then I spent most of that weekend before it was due painting it and putting on all the details.

Hey Travis, tell us a little bit about the snowplow model and the campaign it was made for.
The snowplow model was made for one of the IS Charitable Campaign fundraising events. It was called the Change War Race. Each area within IS was given a cardboard box to create a vehicle for the race. Each vehicle had a donation jar. Change was donated to move the vehicle forward in the race. You could also donate bills to move another IS area's vehicle back.

It was really fun making the snowplow. I enjoy art projects and I am very happy with how it turned out. It was my first time creating a model from scratch.

Tell us a little bit about how it was made. What all went into the model to make it realistic?
When the fundraiser was announced my supervisor, Angie Freeman, came to me and asked if I'd be willing to make the vehicle for the Application Development area. It was her suggestion to do a MoDOT snowplow.



IS Application Development's snow plow model created for the Charitable Campaign by Travis Bond

How much money did the Change War Race generate for the IS Charitable Campaign?

A total of \$721 was raised with the Change War Race.

A model like this is to amazing to have been tossed out after the campaign. Where is it now?

Right now it is in the director's office area, but normally it sits on top of my cubicle at 601 West Main.

'Tis the Season

by Kristen Bagwill



'Tis the season, alright...the season for stress! If gift buying, gloomy weather, holiday crowds and unexpected guests have you stressed out or depressed this holiday season, you're not alone. Here are [10 Tips for Coping](#) with holiday stress from the Mayo Clinic.

Also, check out the services offered by MoDOT's partner, CompPsych, through the [Employee Assistance Program \(EAP\)](#). In addition to professional counseling, the EAP offers legal and financial services. EAP services are totally

confidential and most are FREE for you to use as a MoDOT employee! You don't have to go it alone. The EAP is available 24:7 year-round, so you always have someone to talk to who is on your side. To call the EAP, dial 1-800-808-2261 anytime.

Digital Coaching for Stress Management and Depression

Coventry WellBeing offers two digital coaching programs that can help manage stress and depression.

Relax gives you a personalized plan to help you cope with the demands of your life. The program starts with a 20 minute consultation to identify your sources of stress (e.g., finances, work, family and school).

Care for Depression teaches you how to set reachable goals and change negative thought patterns, and offers round-the-clock access to coping strategies and tools.

As always, your information is confidential.

To get started with these programs:

- Visit the website on your Coventry member ID card - [Coventry](#).
- Log in to or register for My Online Services.
- Select "WellBeing Solutions" under "Wellness Tools."
- Select "Go to coaching" or take the Succeed health risk assessment to learn what other coaching programs might help you.



Central Office Happenings



Suicide Prevention

by Scott Perkins

Dec. 17

2 p.m. to 3 p.m.

601 West Main - Training Room B

or anywhere via video conference (for video contact Amanda Henley – 573-526-5617)

Project Director for the Missouri Suicide Prevention Project, Scott Perkins, will talk about how to identify warning signs and how to help someone in need.

Sign up through the [LMS Student Center](#) – Suicide Prevention Awareness and How to Help – CO)

First Aid/CPR/AED Classes

Dec. 10
8 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.
and 12 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
601 West Main Street - Training Room B

Space is limited, so check with your supervisor, then sign up through the [LMS Student Center](#) (LMS Course Code 24597, titled First Aid/CPR – Infant & CPR/AED – Adult &Child.)

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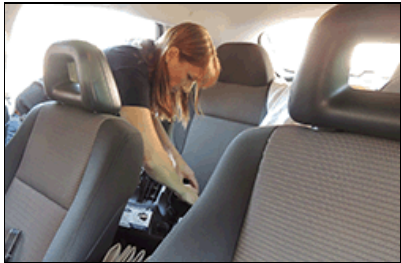
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Northwest District

Saving Children's Lives and the Planet

Senior General Services Technician Lana Allen is passionate about child passenger safety. She is a certified child passenger safety technician and led the Northwest Region Coalition for Roadway Safety's efforts during National Child Passenger Safety week this past September. As she and her other certified child passenger safety technicians met to plan events for the week, there were many discussions about how many community car seat checks would be held and what would happen to all the old car seats that might be collected at these events and those that had been collected over the past couple of years.



Senior General Services Technician Lana Allen checks a child passenger safety seat during Child Passenger Safety week this past September.

In previous years, the old car seats would be put into a large pile and local media were invited to watch the old, out of date or damaged car seats get crushed, giving parents and caregivers the clear message that out of date car seats, or seats that had been in an accident, were not safe to be used no matter how okay they looked. After the event was over, the seats would be scooped up and put into trash dumpster's, ultimately ending up in the local landfill. While this method certainly removed the possibility of the car seats from ever being used again, Allen and the other technicians felt more could be done to keep them out of the landfills.

Allen, using the same persistence and passion she has for child safety, began searching the internet and learned that many other states have recycling programs. The majority of the materials car seats are made of are recyclable. The average child restraint weighs 10-20 pounds with approximately 85 percent made of plastic, 5 percent metal and 10 percent foam, pad and cloth. The polypropylene plastic in the shell of the car seat is very recyclable. The plastic can be reused to make products such as plastic hangers, buckets, pipe, etc. Allen opened the phone book and started calling. She found no local recycle that would accept the car seats due to the mixed materials and it was very labor intensive for the technicians to disassemble them. But one of those phone calls provided Allen with a new lead: Mike Hatfield, Operations Manager of JobOne Recycling Services in Grandview, Missouri.

JobOne Recycling Services would accept the car seats to recycle without the need for disassembly on this end. They employ adults with disabilities to disassemble the car seats. The next hurdle was getting 100 car seats from St. Joseph to Grandview. Through some personal connections, Allen learned Missouri American Water Company has a volunteer program to assist others. Special thanks goes to Missouri American Water's Senior Operations Manager Wynn Morgan for graciously agreeing to partner with us and to Missouri American Water employees Levi Jones and Mike Doolan for loading the 100 car seats on their trailer and transporting them to the recycling center.



Approximately 100 car seats were recycled thanks to the extra effort of Senior General Services Technician Lana Allen.

Currently, donations are being taken and the pile is growing for the next trip to the recycling center. If you have old or unused car seats, feel free to drop them off at the Northwest District Office or the St. Joseph Safety Council.

To learn more about the services JobOne offers, visit www.job1one.org.

If you think your child's safety seat may be out of date, or if you'd just like to have it checked to make sure it is installed correctly, check for a local certified technician go to cert.safekids.org and click on 'find a tech.'

Kudos to Allen and her fellow Certified Child Passenger Safety Technicians for taking the extra effort to go green!

Fire Shuts Down Highway



An early morning fire filled the air with a thick, heavy smoke in Andrew County on Wednesday, Nov. 19. Rural fire crews had to close a portion of U.S. Hwy 169 near Avenue City as the commercial building, which sells tire repair and other automobile accessories burned. Equipment blocked much of the highway and water from the fire fighting efforts quickly turned to ice on the roadway. Three fire departments battled the blaze which started before 6:30 a.m. and smoldered well into the evening. The roadway, however, was able to be reopened at approximately 2 p.m.

For more info

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Northeast District Hosts Customer Service Meeting



Pictured above are: Jarrod Messman (St. Louis), Tim Schmitz (St. Louis), Janis Gieck (Central), Kris Kohr (St. Louis), Owen Neill (St. Louis), Tom & Becky, Dennis O'Loughlin (St. Louis), Teri Zeiger (Northeast), Jim Alter (St. Louis), Phil Davis (St. Louis) and Richard Lacroix (St. Louis). Not pictured are: Sandy Jump (Northeast) and Barb Conners (Southeast).

Customer service representatives and TMC operators from around the state were guests in the Northeast District last month for their mid-year meeting. Those in attendance included individuals from Central District, Southeast District and St. Louis TMC. The remainder of the representatives met in the Northwest District earlier the same week. These meetings provide everyone an opportunity to get to know each other, since they regularly communicate via phone and instant messaging.

Updates were provided to the call report database and contacts map, and guest speaker Rich Rice from the Hannibal Swiss Colony Data Call Center spoke about keeping attitudes fresh and positive for customers. Tom and Becky welcomed everyone at the beginning of the meeting by performing their "engagement scene" for the guests.

Using Excess Inventory

During the November Tracker meeting, Hannibal Maintenance Supervisor Kirk Youngblood was recognized for developing a plan on how to use excess pavement marking tape in inventory.

"Pavement marking tape is the preferred method for striping, but due to the cost, time and exposure of workers to traffic, painting the stripes is more cost efficient and less labor intensive," explained Youngblood.

Youngblood said MoDOT can paint cheaper twice during the year than it can buy the striping tape and install it.

"Since we have a considerable amount of 24 inch tape on hand and it was necessary to make the best possible use of it, we have several areas where this can be used, such as gore points at ramps and lane transitions, which are almost impossible to stripe," he added.

Areas where this tape can be used are on Audrain U.S. Route 54 on the Mexico Bypass, Marion County U.S. Route 24 near Taylor, and Lincoln County U.S. Route 61 and Route C and U Interchanges (pictured below).

In high volume areas with significant turning movements, the tape is ideal and is considered to be a more durable material than paint and more resilient during winter months.





For more info

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District Taps Innovation and Team Spirit

This week, the Kansas City District hosted a yearly Innovations Challenge Showcase, inviting inventors, innovators and creators to display their creative genius for their team. With 14 entries, this event hosted more than 100 employees who checked out all the innovations. One winner was chosen from each category and their innovation will move forward to compete in the statewide competition.

This year, the district introduced a new People's Choice award. Employees were asked to vote for their favorite innovation of the showcase for a special prize.

The winners were:

- People's Choice: Sign Saver – Brenda Butler & Carl Phillips (Sedalia)
- Tool & Equipment: Sign Saver – Brenda Butler & Carl Phillips (Sedalia)
- Productivity: Aggregate & Concrete Tracker – Karl Beckemeier, Jeff Gabel & Rex Studt (Construction & Materials)
- Projects: Kansas City News – Michele Compton & Melissa Black (Community Relations)

Thank you to all the employees who entered the challenge, who strive to be bold and find ways to do things better, more efficiently and safely.

- Loop Checker – Ed Vaughn (Signals/Lighting)
- Portable Pothole Patcher – Herb Latchaw & Charles Burton (Marshall)
- Striping Bead Filter – Jim Whitsitt (Lee's Summit West)
- Guardrail Sprayer – Scott Dooley, Doug Sardeson, Telisa Anderson, Joe Webber, Clem Anderson (Belton)
- Snow Shovel – Karl Lennox (Stadium north)
- Mobile Base Cleaner – Dennis Pine (Warrensburg)
- Stationary Base Cleaner – Travis Taylor & Anthony Crusha
- Zero Turn Mower Plow – Terry Summers (Mulberry)
- Zero Turn Mower Plow – Chris Williams (Lee's Summit East)
- Zero Turn Mower Plow & Spreader – Karl Lennox (Stadium North)
- Tow Plow Lock – Loren Moore (Warrensburg)



Review all the entries and photos of the event on the [Kansas City District Innovations Challenge site. \(Internal link\)](#)

Third Annual Chili Competition Heats Up and Collects for Project Warmth.

The aroma of highly seasoned, pepper-laden, heat infused chili wafted through the Skiles Maintenance garage. That meant only one thing; the annual Chili Cook-off Competition was once again heating up.

The 3rd annual event sponsored by the Northland Area Team took place on Nov. 24 inside the Skiles garage. Close to 30 crockpots aligned several tables with various versions of chili, and included chili with meat “only” to an entry with mounds of beans and one entry with no beans at all. There was even a green chili version that ran in the competition.

Participants could take part in two categories, which included individual and team competitors. Five judges had the privilege of tasting every single crockpot overflowing with peppery goodness.

The proceeds collected at the door will help buy a pancake griddle for the Northland Area Team and the remaining monies went to the Employee Assistance Fund. A coat and blanket drive was also held. Items collected were given to [Project Warmth of Kansas City](#).

At the end of a full lunch of chili, the judges handed down their decision. Skiles Maintenance took first place in the team competition. The Nashua Project Office came in second and Nashua Maintenance finished third.

Here is a list of the individual winners; Bob Etter, first place, Randal Easley second place, Mike Burson finished third, Dale Malott, fourth place and Paul Daves came in 5th.



For more info

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Customer Gives Thanks to Fulton Shed

MoDOT customer Zachary Price of Fulton recently sent in a thank you note via Facebook to the Fulton maintenance shed for their hard work in relocating a mailbox for his grandfather back in October.

Zachary wrote to the crew at the Fulton shed:

“My grandfather and I want to thank the Fulton shed. You have truly been a blessing to my grandparents by helping them get their mail. My grandfather loves everything that (MoDOT) does and was so happy to get the mailbox fixed ... we are all thankful for all the work you have done, especially when you had to come out multiple times and in the rain. You guys rock and are simply the best at what you do.”

We join Zachary in praising the Fulton shed for their fantastic work and their awesome display of customer service!



Holiday Season Kicking Off at the District

The Central District Activities Committee unboxed and decorated the Christmas Tree to get the district office in the spirit of the holiday season. Members of the committee pictured are (from left) Elizabeth Berhorst, Brenda Dudenhoeffer and Mary Rackers.



Yes Virginia, Santa Claus loves MoDOT! Old St. Nick showed his gratitude for the hard working men and women of the Central District by posing with Eldon Maintenance Supervisor Dirk Honeycutt and his grandson after the Eldon Holiday Parade on Nov. 22.

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Comments & Suggestions

We would like to hear from you. Send comments and suggestions to Tammy Wallace at Tammy.Wallace@modot.mo.gov.

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Our mission is to provide a world-class transportation experience that delights our customers and promotes a prosperous Missouri.

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St. Louis Construction Project Wins Transportation Award

During the 2014 annual AASHTO meeting, transportation officials honored a St. Louis construction team for their efforts to raise a substandard bridge. The team, led by Construction Inspector Vince Kaimann, received the 2014 Performance Excellence Award for the Raising Spirit of St. Louis Boulevard Bridge Project.



Vince Kaimann (left) and Dave Nichols (right) pose with the Performance Excellence Award at the 2014 annual AASHTO meeting in North Carolina.

Previously, the Spirit of St. Louis Boulevard Bridge over Interstate 64 had a vertical clearance of just over 14 and a-half feet. Because of this, the overpass had been struck and repaired numerous times.

As part of the Daniel Boone Bridge Project, MoDOT along with its partners Burns & McDonnell and Walsch/Alberici Joint Venture used a more efficient approach to correct the height restriction.

The Spirit of St. Louis Boulevard Bridge was raised approximately two feet by crews using hydraulic jacks to lift the bridge and precast blocks to support it at its new height. Through this project, the bridge was corrected at a fraction of the cost of a full replacement, and the safety of the corridor was significantly improved.

“This award is really recognition of the hard work and dedication of the entire Boone Bridge team. It shows what can be done when we work as a team – not only with MoDOT, but also with our joint venture partners Walsh Alberici and Burns & McDonnell,” said Kaimann.

Special Operations Worker Earns Safety Recognition

by Shaunda White

To Kevin Burditt, safety is more than a memorable phrase. His commitment to ensuring that “I am safe, what I use is safe, and where I am is safe” has earned him safety recognition for September.

Burditt, a special operations maintenance worker also known as ‘KB’, was nominated by District Safety & Health Manager, Lisa Lamons.

Lamons was invited for a ride-along with the evening sweeping operations crew on Sept. 10, of which Burdett was the driver. Lamons made note of how well Burdett drove the sweeper, communicated non-stop with co-workers about safe techniques and ensured that the operation was running smoothly.

“I am extremely impressed with how well Kevin works with the crew. He takes out the time to thoroughly explain the operations and confirm that each crew member fully understands their role. He also gives numerous safety reminders throughout the work shift and his co-workers truly admire his safety work ethics. He is more than deserving of this recognition,” said Lamons.

In addition to the recognition, Burditt will receive a safety PPE bag, two hours of paid time off and an Employee of the Month certificate.



Kevin Burditt is recognized as September Safety Employee of the Month.

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Southwest District



Southwest District at Work



PUBLIC COMMENTS – District Design Engineer Stacy Reese listens to comments from people who attended a mid-November public meeting about the diverging diamond interchange project at Route 65 and Battlefield Road in Springfield. (Photo/Angela Eden)



ROUNDAABOUTS 101 – Senior Traffic Studies Specialist Dave Taylor explains how to navigate dual lane roundabouts to a group of senior citizens in Joplin. (Photo/David Mitchell)



GREAT QUESTION – Project Director Sean Matlock answers a student's question about the design/build Project Freeway: U.S. 60 Rogersville project during an outreach event at Missouri State University. (Photo/David Mitchell)



LOAD LIMITS – District Bridge Engineer Dave O'Connor talks with a Joplin television reporter about the recently imposed 10 ton weight limit on the Route 96 bridge in Carthage. (Photo/David Mitchell)



Winners Chosen for Southwest District's 2014-2015 Innovations Challenge

by David Mitchell

More than 40 ideas for improving safety, saving money and increasing productivity were submitted by Southwest District maintenance employees for the 2014-2015 Innovations Challenge.

Ideas ranged from equipment that makes it easier for drivers to see where a tow plow is behind the truck during snow fights to new ways of securing tools safely in the beds of trucks.

“These are the folks out in the field who think this stuff up,” said Assistant District Engineer Andy Mueller. “I am amazed every time I see their ideas.”

The ideas were submitted after being piloted in the field during the past year.

All of the innovations were judged in these categories:

- Originality
- Transferability
- Conservation of Resources
- Organizational Impact

The goal of the challenge is to recognize employee-initiated ideas that improve productivity, safety and efficiency in MoDOT operations.

The innovations were on display at the District Office in Springfield on December 2 where people attending the challenge voted for the district finalists.

These are the winners:

- (tied for 1st) Stockton – Flag on Sander Stand for Unloading
- (tied for 1st) Ozark – Vibrating-System in Pull-Paver for Less Shoveling, Less Back Strain
- (tied for 3rd) Anderson – TV Monitor for Safety Videos & Training
- (tied for 3rd) Springfield – Heated Safety Sign for Sander
- Preston – CMP Clamp Tightener
- Nevada – Concrete Slab Remover
- Bolivar – Mud Flap Removal & Storage
- (tied for 8th) Clinton – Concrete Chute
- (tied for 8th) Warsaw – Sign Anchor Level
- (tied for 10th) Lamar – Sign Post Puller
- (tied for 10th) Bradleyville – Strobe Light on Sign Trailer
- (tied for 10th) Cole Camp – Tailgate Chip Spreader (4’, 6’, 10’ widths)
- (tied for 10th) Buffalo – Wings Widened on Pull-Paver to Fit Newer/Wider Dump Trucks

Winners earned \$75 per individual or up to \$425 per team.

After an eligibility check, six will move on to the statewide Innovations Showcase in Springfield next spring.



Southwest District employees gather to view entrees for 2014-2015 Innovations Challenge in Springfield. (Photo/David Mitchell)

Southwest District First in North America to Test Solar-Powered Pavement Markers

by David Mitchell



Click the above image to view a short video of the LED lane markers being tested by the Southwest District.

The Southwest District is testing a new type of lane marker that will help drivers see the white “skip” marks on the pavement in areas where drivers have complained about poor striping visibility.

The product is called LEDMARK and is made by a Danish company, LFK. It’s a small, solar-powered LED pavement marker.

This is the first test of the product in North America, but it has been used in Europe.

Each of the markers is approximately four inches wide, five inches long and less than half an inch thick. A groove is made in the pavement and the marker is laid into the groove flush with

the pavement and secured with a two-part urethane adhesive.

Sixteen of the new markers were installed Nov. 5 at the diverging diamond interchange at Route 65 and Chestnut

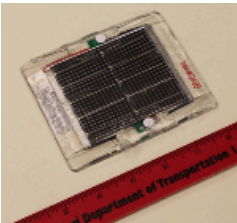
Expressway in Springfield where the eastbound and westbound lanes crossover at the southbound ramp.

“We chose to test these (markers) because we have had concerns raised about wet nighttime visibility for striping,” said Traffic Operations Engineer Brandon Campbell. “We thought the best location would be a DDI where the geometry is complex and unfamiliar and drivers could use the additional guidance.”

The markers are made up of small solar panels powering two diodes aimed so they can be seen only in one direction.

Each unit costs about \$100.

“We will watch closely through winter plowing and spring rains,” Campbell said, “and probably won’t make any big decisions before a full year is up.”



Example of the LEDMARK pavement marker being tested by the Southwest District. (Photo / David Mitchell)

For more info

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Comments & Suggestions

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Southeast District

MoDOT Tests Bridges, Names Winners of Bridge Building Competition

Oak Ridge, Ste. Genevieve and Notre Dame High Schools Take 'Top Three'

After weeks of work to build the most efficient model bridges, Southeast Missouri high school students put their bridges to the test Nov. 20 at the completion of MoDOT's 11th Annual Bridge Building Competition. The competition challenges high school juniors and seniors to design and construct the most efficient model bridge using limited materials-15 pieces of balsa wood, thread and glue.

Oak Ridge, Ste. Genevieve and Notre Dame High Schools received first, second and third place for best overall performance, respectively. These schools received cash prizes donated by the SE Chapter of the Transportation Employee Association of Missouri.



Click the image above to view photos from the 11th Annual Bridge Building Competition.

In addition, five students were recognized for building the lightest bridges that carried the greatest loads. Winners included:

- 1st - Tessa Mangels - Oak Ridge
- 2nd - Gabe Shrout - Oak Ridge
- 3rd - Andrew DeRousse - Ste. Genevieve
- 4th - Jessica Hahs - Oak Ridge
- 5th - Bryan Schaaf - Ste. Genevieve

Other awards included the most aesthetic bridge, presented to Monica Foltz of Notre Dame High School; and the computer-based electronic bridge award presented to Morgan Schenck of Ste. Genevieve High School.



Click the image above or visit <http://youtu.be/oRfWs0L5RxM> to view the presentation of awards during MoDOT's 11th Annual Bridge Building Competition.

Prize donations and supply sponsorships have been made possible by the following businesses and organizations: SE Chapter of the Transportation Employee Association of Missouri, Cape West 14 Cine, Three Rivers Community College, Cape Area Engineers Club, Southeast Physics & Engineering Club, Southeast Chapter of the Missouri Society of Professional Engineers, Kirlin's Hallmark of Cape Girardeau, Coca Cola, Sam's Club and the Southeast Coalition for Roadway Safety.

MoDOT also partnered with Arkansas State University, Southeast Missouri State University, Missouri University of Science and Technology, University of Missouri-Columbia (Mizzou) and Southern Illinois University of Carbondale, to offer seniors interested in civil engineering up to

\$10,000 in scholarships.

Members of the Southeast Missouri Coalition for Roadway Safety were on hand during the competition to discuss the importance of buckling-up with the Seat Belt Convincer, which simulates how it feels to be in a traffic crash.

For more information, please contact Senior Highway Designer Anita Clark at (573) 472-5292, Senior Highway Designer Gretchen Hanks at (573) 472-5294 or MoDOT's Customer Service Center toll-free at 1-888 ASK MODOT (275-6636).

District Innovations Challenge Showcase

Dec. 11 at Van Buren Maintenance Facility



With nearly 25 Innovations Challenge submissions, the Southeast District is preparing for its district showcase. The SE showcase will begin at approximately 10 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 11 at the Van Buren maintenance facility.

Up to 18 winners may be selected from the district. District winners will receive \$75 per person or a maximum of \$450 per team. Next, a statewide team will take a look at the winners from each district and select the top innovations to compete at the Statewide Innovations Challenge Showcase in spring 2015.

Statewide Innovation Challenge winners will receive \$425 per person or a maximum of \$1,550 per team. In addition, up to six innovations may also be named best practices during the statewide competition—earning an extra \$10,000 for their district or division budget.

Good luck to this year's SE District participants!

For more info

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